

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM - SPECIAL "FOREIGN INDUSTRY
QUESTIONNAIRE"

REF: STATE 157105

1. IN OUR EFFORT TO DEVELOP AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST FOR DATA OUTLINED IN PARAS. 5, 6, AND 7 OF REFTEL, WE HAVE CONTACTED INDIVIDUAL STEEL MILLS, THE FEDERATION OF GREEK INDSTRIALISTS, THE ASSOCIATION OF GREEK IRON AND STEEL PRODUCERS, AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY, COMMERCE, AND COORDINATION. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS, WE REGRET THAT THE DATA AVAILABLE TO US ARE VERY LIMITED. WE CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, OBTAIN STATISTICS ON STEEL PRODUCTION FROM THE COMPETENT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY, BUT THESE DATA ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE NATIONAL INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE, AND ONLY ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THE LATEST AVAILABLE PRODUCTION FIGURE WOULD BE FOR 1977. TREASURY MAY WISH TO REVIEW THE EMBASSY'S REPORTING OF ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF STEEL UNDER CERP 4291, MINERALS QUESTIONNAIRE (SEE ATHENS A-52 OF MAY 8, 1978).

2. WE WILL BE UNABLE TO DEVELOP THE DETAILED PRICE
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INFORMATION AND COST OF PRODUCTION DATA REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPHS 6 AND 7 OF REFTEL BECAUSE THE COMPANIES HERE REGARD SUCH DATA AS CONFIDENTIAL. FURTHERMORE, DOMESTIC STEEL PRODUCER PRICE LISTS DO NOT EXIST. THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE HAS INFORMED US THAT IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS ARE NOT CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THAT PRICES ARE THEREFORE SET FREELY BY THE

INDIVIDUAL COMPANIES. THE COMPANIES ARE SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO REGULATIONS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE PROFIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 30 OF LEGISLATIVE DECREE 136/46, CODE OF PRICE CONTROL REGULATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE. AS REQUESTED IN PARA 3 OF REFTTEL, WE ARE POUCHING DIRECTLY TO THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE COPIES OF THE PUBLISHED ANNUAL BALANCE SHEETS FOR 1977 FOR THE SIX GREEK STEEL PRODUCERS AS REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS.

3. GREECE FOLLOWS THE PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION (ISIC) OF ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, 2ND REVISION 1968. THE ECONOMIC BRANCH NO. 34 OF THE GREEK STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION OF BRANCHES OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, PUBLISHED IN 1975, CORRESPONDS WITH CATEGORY 37, BASIC METAL INDUSTRIES, AS DESCRIBED IN THE UNITED NATIONS ISIC, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TUBES AND PIPES WHICH ARE CLASSIFIED UNDER GREEK ECONOMIC BRANCH NO. 35. (PLEASE REFER TO THE STATISTICAL YEARBOOK OF GREECE 1977 (P. 249 AND 250) PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE OF GREECE, WHICH WAS SENT TO INR/P ON MAY 9, 1978). THERE IS NO ANALYTICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL STEEL PRODUCT CLASSIFICATION.

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4. FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LOCAL STEEL INDUSTRY: GREECE'S ANNUAL STEEL MAKING CAPACITY IS ABOUT TWO MILLION METRIC TONS. THE INDUSTRY CONSISTS OF ONE INTEGRATED PLANT WITH ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS CAPACITY OF STEEL PER YEAR USING THE ORE-PIG IRON-BASIC OXYGEN FURNACE SEQUENCE OF STEEL-MAKING AND ELECTRIC FURNACE, AND FOUR PLANTS WITH A TOTAL OF ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS' CAPACITY OF STEEL PER YEAR USING ELECTRIC FURNACES. ALL PLANTS ARE MODERN THE EMPLOY CONTINUOUS CASTING. IN ADDITION, THE INDUSTRY INCLUDES A COLD REDUCTION MILL WITH AN ANNUAL CAPACITY OF ABOUT 300,000-350,000 TONS OF COLD ROLLED AND COATED SHEETS. OUT OF THE 32 AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE CATEGORIES OF STEEL MILL PRODUCTS, THE LOCAL INDUSTRY DOES NOT RPT NOT PRODUCE CATEGORIES 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 17, 18, 24, 28, 31 AND 32. CATEGORIES 19 AND 20 ARE PRODUCED BY FABRICATORS. MILLS

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